
Fourth report of the Seychelles Bird Records Committee

Adrian Skerrett, Michael Betts, John Bowler, Ian Bullock, David Fisher, Rob Lucking and John Phillips

Quatrième rapport du Comité d'Homologation Seychellois. Le quatrième rapport quinquennal du Comité d'Homologation Seychellois, crée en 1992, est présenté ici. Il comprend les données acceptées d'espèces occasionnelles (espèces enregistrées moins d'une fois par an) pour la période du 1er janvier 2006 au 31 décembre 2010. Dix-sept espèces occasionnelles ont été ajoutées à la liste des Seychelles depuis la publication du rapport précédent (voir *Bull. ABC* 13: 170–177) en 2006. Le nombre des espèces enregistrées aux Seychelles est ainsi passé à 255, dont 65 espèces nicheuses, 27 migrants annuels, sept espèces éteintes et 156 occasionnelles. Un occasionnel, le Goéland de Heuglin, précédemment traité comme une espèce à part entière, est actuellement considéré comme une sous-espèce du Goéland brun *Larus fuscus heuglini*. Le Faucon de l'Amour *Falco amurensis*, précédemment considéré comme occasionnel, a été reclassé comme annuel. Des photos sont présentées de neuf espèces observées pour la première fois.

Summary. Seychelles Bird Records Committee, formed in 1992, publishes reports at intervals of five years. This fourth report summarises all accepted records of vagrants (species recorded less than annually) during the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2010. Seventeen vagrants have been added to the Seychelles list since the publication of the previous report. With these, the number of species recorded in Seychelles has increased to 255. One vagrant previously treated as a full species is now treated as a race, Heuglin's Gull *Larus fuscus heuglini*. Another species, Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, previously classed as a vagrant is now an annual visitor. Photographs of nine new species where no details have been published are presented here.

Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) was formed in 1992 and publishes reports at intervals of five years with previous reports appearing in 1996, 2001 and 2006. A summary of as-yet unverified sightings received by SBRC is published every six months in the Recent Reports section of the *Bull. ABC* and accepted records are summarised quarterly on the website of SBRC: <http://www.stokecoll.ac.uk/sbrc/>

The first three SBRC reports have taken the form of a full checklist of the birds of Seychelles. This fourth report differs in focusing on accepted records of vagrants (species of less than annual occurrence) during the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2010 (i.e. since the previous report). A full checklist including the number of accepted records for each species and each island can be downloaded from the SBRC website.

Since its formation, SBRC has considered 1,675 records of which 1,351 have been accepted to species level (80.7%) and a further 107 records (6.4%) accepted to a qualified category (e.g. *Cuculus* sp. or Pintail *Gallinula stenura* / Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala*). The remaining 12.9% is considered 'not proven'. The acceptance rates include records where the observer submitted a sighting as one species but SBRC accepted it as

another species and records where the observer has made no judgement, a fairly frequent occurrence in Seychelles (accounting for seven new species during 2006–10).

The number of species recorded in Seychelles in the third report was given as 239 as at 31 December 2005 (Skerrett *et al.* 2006). Seventeen new species have been added to the Seychelles list since then. One species, Heuglin's Gull, previously given full species status, is now treated as a race of Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus heuglini*. Therefore, after allowing for these changes, the number of species recorded in Seychelles as at 31 December 2010 is 255. This comprises 65 breeding species, 27 annual migrants, seven extinct species and 156 vagrants. Adjusting for taxonomic changes, the number of species on the Seychelles list has risen by 35% in the 15 years between the first report and the current report as follows:

Report	No. of sp.
First report, 1996	189
Second report, 2001	222
Third report, 2006	237
Fourth report, 2011	255

Highlights of the current report include the following:

1. A series of remarkable petrel sightings at Cousin Island, including two first records for Seychelles (Herald Petrel *Pterodroma heraldica* and Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*) plus the first breeding record of Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*, which itself was unrecorded prior to 2003.
2. Four new species for Seychelles from Aldabra. Three of these breed in the African region, whereas the majority of vagrants to Seychelles are long-distance migrants breeding outside the region. These are African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*, Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* and Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*. The first Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* for Seychelles was also recorded on Aldabra.
3. The continued prominence of Bird Island, the 'Fair Isle' of Seychelles, for recording long-distance migrants, with 45 new vagrant records accepted including three new species for Seychelles: Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*, Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* and Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*. The first *Ficedula* flycatcher for Seychelles was also recorded on Bird Island, although the bird could not be identified to species.
4. The meteoric rise to prominence of Alphonse in the Amirantes following the establishment of the Alphonse Island Conservation Centre in 2007. The island produced 57 accepted records (plus four from neighbouring St. François), more than any other island and including the first records of three species: Black-bellied Storm-petrel *Fregetta tropica*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* and Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.
5. Five other first records have been accepted: Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* on Silhouette, Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii* on Aride, Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* on Mahé, Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* at sea and Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* on Denis.
6. Accounts of the sighting of four of the 17 new species have been published in *Bull ABC*. Publication is pending for four more. Photographs of the nine species for which full details will not be published are presented here.

7. The status of Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* has been changed from vagrant to annual, despite the fact that it was unrecorded prior to 1995 (excluding a single plausible account from the 1970s that SBRC is still attempting to trace). Remarkably, it was the second most frequently reported migrant landbird during 2006–10.
8. The most frequently reported migrant landbird during 2006–10 was Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*, given invasions in two successive years including more than 1,000 birds scattered across the granitic islands and Amirantes in 2008–09, with smaller numbers the following season. A similar invasion has been recorded only once previously, in 2001/2002.

The following records were accepted in the five years to 31 December 2010. Numbers in parentheses represent, first, the total number of accepted records to date and, second, the number of records accepted during the five-year period.

Herald Petrel *Pterodroma heraldica* (1, 1)

One, the hill, Cousin, 10–11 June 2009 (D. J. R. Andrews *et al.*). Details of this first record will be published elsewhere.

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* (5, 3)

Intermediate morph, Cousin, 13 August 2006 (C. Eikenaar). Dark morph, Cousin, 10 January 2007 (C. Eikenaar, M. Mainwaring). Two, Cousin, 18 November 2009, one seen with a chick on 24 November 2009 (J. Simeon *et al.*). First recorded on Cousin on 29 August 2003 and again on 29 June 2004 (Eikenaar & Skerrett 2006). Both sightings and that in August 2006 probably involved the same bird, ringed in June 2004 and re-captured on 24 November 2009, when it formed one of a breeding pair. The second breeding adult, a dark-morph bird, is possibly the same individual recorded in January 2007. This bird was ringed on 18 November 2009. No subsequent reports have been received by SBRC.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* (1, 1)

One, the hill, Cousin, 15 June 2009 (D. J. R. Andrews *et al.*). Details of this first record for Seychelles will be published elsewhere.

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* (11, 1)
Four, between Cosmoledo and Poivre, 18 March 2009 (R. Wanless *et al.*).

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (6, 1)
One, off D'Arros, 3 July 2009 (U. Engelhardt *et al.*).

Storm-petrel sp. (probably **Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*)
One, at sea near Cousin, June 2007 (G. Rocamora).

Black-bellied Storm-petrel *Fregetta tropica* (1, 1)
One, Alphonse, found alive but later died, 30 June 2010 (A. Nahaboo *et al.*; Fig.1). The specimen is now at The Natural History Museum, Tring, UK (BMNH 2011.24.1).



Figure 1. Black-bellied Storm-petrel / Océanite à ventre noir *Fregetta tropica*, Alphonse, 30 June 2010 (Aurélien Nahaboo)

Storm-petrel sp.
One, between Mahé and Praslin, 25 May 2008 (S. Gillings). One, 30 km east of La Digue, 20 October 2009 (K. Jolliffe, J. Henwood).

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (7, 1)
Adult, Cousin, 10 October 2010 (P. Chadwick).

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* (3, 1)
Adult, Grand Terre, Aldabra, 16 February 2010 (S. Balderson).

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (6, 2)
One, Bird Island, 5 November 2005–2 April 2006 (R. Bresson *et al.*). Adult, Alphonse, 31 October–1 November 2010 (A. Nahaboo, S. Agricole).

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (4, 1)
Non-breeding adult, Praslin, 12 January 2010 (K. de Jong, M. I. van Neirp).

Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* (6, 2)
One, Denis Island, 10 December 2007 (C. J. Feare, C. Hoareau). One, Alphonse, 30 October–5 November 2009 (P. A. Adam, M. Labrosse).

Ardeola sp. (probably **Madagascar Pond Heron** *Ardeola idea*)
Juvenile, Assumption Island, 3 March 2008 (G. Rocamora). One, Poivre, 19 March 2009 (R. Wanless *et al.*).

Ardeola sp.
One, Desroches, 21–28 October 2009 (P. Summerton, L. Thompson).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (26, 3)
Two, Praslin, 31 December 2008 (J. Bisschop, T. Bisschop). One, Mahé, 25 January 2009 (A. P. Skerrett). One, Cousine, 5 February–3 March 2010 (K. Jolliffe *et al.*).

Great Egret *Egretta alba* (16, 5)
One, Grand Terre, Aldabra, 23 April 2008 (C. Onezia, D. Louange). One, St. Joseph Atoll, 26 April 2009 (B. Narty). Adult in breeding plumage, Paul Island, St. Joseph Atoll, 10 November 2009 (B. Narty). One, Mahé, 14 November 2009 (A. P. Skerrett, S. Ansell). One, Bird Island, 9–11 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (43, 9)
One, Alphonse, 16 October–9 November 2007 (L. Macgregor, R. Bijoux). Immature, Denis Island, 3 October 2008 (C. Onezia). Adult, Mahé, 14 December–20 December 2008 (T. Vel *et al.*). Adult, Desroches, 23 April 2009 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). Adult, Mahé, c.18 October 2009–18 November 2009 (T. Vel, A. P. Skerrett). Immature, Alphonse, 22 October 2009 (A. Rose, M. Labrosse). One, Desroches, 24 October–17 November 2009 (P. Summerton, D. Jupiter). First-year, Desroches, 9–11 October 2010 (T. Jupiter, A. Commettant). Two, Mahé, 20 October 2010 (B. & G. Slade).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (10, 7)

One, Mahé, 13 December 2008 (A. P. Skerrett, B. Cooper). One, Frégate, 8–11 November 2009 (G. Canning, S. Hill). Immature, Bird Island, 10–17 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). Up to eight, La Digue, 23 March 2010 (I. Rasmussen *et al.*). Three, including at least one adult in breeding plumage, Mahé, 25–26 March 2010 (I. Rasmussen *et al.*). One, Eden Island, 3 April, two, 19 April, four, 20 April, three, 23 April and two, 22 June, one remaining to 6 November 2010 (G. Rocamora *et al.*). One, Mahé, 17 June 2010 (R. M. Mason).

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (1, 1)

Male, Silhouette, 17 February–1 March 2006 (J. Larue, G. Esparon; Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Male Eurasian Wigeon / Canard siffleur *Anas penelope*, Silhouette, 17 February–1 March 2006 (Jules Larue)

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (10, 3)

Female, Mahé, 5 December 2007, joined by second female and a male first week of January 2008, all three remaining until 21 January 2008 (M. J. Dale *et al.*). Two females, Mahé, 20 December 2008 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). First-winter, Aride, 20 January 2010 (P. Knott, J. Grant).

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (9, 1)

Female or immature, Aride, 5 January 2010 (P. Knott, J. Grant).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (4, 1)

Adult male, Denis Island, 25–27 November 2008 (J. Nevill, F. Hoareau).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (1, 1)

Juvenile female, sewage pond on Alphonse, 23–25 December 2006 (A. P. Skerrett, A Fowls). Details of this first record for Seychelles have been published (Skerrett 2009).

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (4, 1)

One, Denis Island, 24 April 2006 (R. Collins, C. Hoareau).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (3, 2)

One, Alphonse, 26–27 March 2008 (A. Rose *et al.*). Adult, Alphonse, 24 December 2008 and 7 January 2009 (A. Rose *et al.*).

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (6, 3)

Immature, North Island, 25 October 2007 (L. Ferreira, S. Talma). One, Alphonse, 27 February–3 April 2009 (P. A. Adam, A. Rose). Female, Desroches, 8 March 2010 (P. Summerton).

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1, 1)

Adult female, found dead 30 m inland of the beach, Alphonse, 6 January 2008 (L. Macgregor; Fig 3). The specimen is now at The Natural History Museum, Tring, UK (BMNH 2011.23.1).



Figure 3. Adult female Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* found dead on Alphonse, 6 January 2008 (Adrian Skerrett)

Faucon crécerelle *Falco tinnunculus*, femelle adulte, trouvée morte à Alphonse, 6 janvier 2008 (Adrian Skerrett)

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (5, 1)

Adult female, Aride, 5 December 2008 (R. Tiatousse *et al.*).

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* (29, 3)

First-year, Picard, Aldabra, 12 December 2006 (G. Esparon, P. Pistorius). First-winter, Picard, Aldabra, 21 January 2007 (G. Esparon *et al.*). Immature, Aride, 19 November 2008 (R. Tiatousse, I. Krummholz). A ring only, Alphonse, 12 December 2009, had been applied to a first-year, Las Islas Columbretes, Spain, on 17 September 2008.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (25, 7)

Juvenile, Alphonse, 10 December 2007–13 January 2008 (L. Macgregor *et al.*). One to three, Denis, 24–27 November 2008 (J. Nevill *et al.*). First-winter, Cousine, 24 December 2008–11 January 2009 (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe). Two first-winters, Bird Island, 15–21 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). First-winter, D'Arros, 21 November 2009 (D. Ellinger). First-winter, Poivre, 7 December 2009 (L. Claven). Immature, Desroches, 3–4 January 2010 (L. Thompson, D. Jupiter).

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* (3, 1)

One, Alphonse, 7–9 December 2009 (P. A. Adam, J. Hoareau).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (12, 6)

At least two, Alphonse, 12 October–17 November 2007 (L. Macgregor *et al.*). Adult, Silhouette, 28 October 2007 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). Adult and immature, Praslin, 28 November 2008 (R. Tiatousse *et al.*). Immature, North Island, 25 September 2009 (E. Mokhobo, L. Wombach). Adult, Alphonse, 5–14 November 2009 (P. A. Adam). One, Bird Island, 11 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (10, 6)

One, Alphonse, 10 December 2006–27 March 2007 (M. Betts *et al.*). Immature, Alphonse, 26–31 October 2008 (P. A. Adam, R. Bijoux). One, Bird Island, 9–28 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). Four adults, Alphonse, 4–16 May 2009 (P. A. Adam *et al.*). Adult, Frégate, 12 June 2009 (M. Wilkens, B. Whittington). One, Frégate, 25–27 March 2010 (G. Canning).

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* (15, 3)

Adult, Alphonse, 2 December 2006–27 March 2007 (M. Betts *et al.*). Up to five, Silhouette, 23–26 October 2007 (R. Gerlach, G. Gerlach). Two, Praslin, 24 November 2008 (H. Kisbye).

Pratincole sp. *Glareola* sp.

One, Mahé, 15 February 2006 (A. P. Skerrett). One dead, North Island, 29 October 2006 (U. Bristol). One, Mahé, 19 November 2008 (H. Kisbye). One, Desroches, 27 February 2009 (E. Palmer, M. Collins). Two, Frégate, 14 November 2009 (G. Canning, S. Hill). One, Desroches, 1 March 2010 (P. Summerton).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (10, 1)

One, Alphonse, 21 November 2008 (M. Betts *et al.*).

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* (5, 1)

Adult, Alphonse, 26 October–11 November 2008 (P. A. Adam, R. Bijoux).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (6, 1)

One, Mahé, 10 March 2007 (M. Betts, A. P. Skerrett).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (2, 1)

One, Mahé, 28 January 2007 (A. P. Skerrett).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (5, 2)

Non-breeding adult, D'Arros, 13 November 2006 (J. C. Cadbury *et al.*). Adult, Alphonse, 8–16 May 2009 (P. A. Adam, A. Rose).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (4, 1)

One, Alphonse, 2–3 November 2007 (P. A. Adam, R. Bijoux).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (6, 1)

One, Alphonse, 6–18 November 2007 (P. A. Adam, A. P. Skerrett).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (30, 3)

Juvenile female, Mahé, 23 September 2009 (R. Martin, G. Rocamora). Juvenile male and juvenile female, Bird Island, 13 November–28 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). One, Desroches, 16 November 2009 (L. Thompson, D. Jupiter).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus* (1, 1)
One, at the tern colony, Bird Island, 25 October 2004–25 March 2005 (A. P. Skerrett, R. Bresson, G. Norah, M. Norah). Details of this first record for Seychelles have been published (Skerrett 2009).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (16, 5)
Three, Mahé, 10 March 2007 (M. Betts, A. P. Skerrett). One, Alphonse, 16–22 November 2008 (M. Betts *et al.*). One, Mahé, 20 December 2008 (J. Komdeur *et al.*). One, Aride, 17 October 2009 (M. Sur). Two, Alphonse, 20 October–6 November 2009 (A. Rose *et al.*).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (3, 1)
One, Mahé, 16–17 January 2008 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*).

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* or **Swinhoe's Snipe** *G. megala*
One, Bird Island, 12 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips).

Snipe sp. *Gallinago* sp.
One, Alphonse, 22 January 2009 (A. Rose). One, Mahé, 20 November 2009 (R. Martin). Two, Denis Island, 30 December 2009 (M. Sur).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (7, 1)
One, Aride, 24 December 2009 (P. Knott *et al.*).

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* (4, 1)
One, Silhouette, 11 September 2006 (R. Gerlach, G. Gerlach).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (10, 1)
One, Mahé, 12 October 2006 (J. Burrell, G. Burrell).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (8, 1)
One, Mahé, 21 February–10 March 2007 (M. J. Dale, M. Betts).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* (4, 2)
Four, St. François, 1 March 2007 (M. Betts, T. Potgieter). One, St. François, 17 November 2008 (M. Betts).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (4, 1)
Pale-morph adult, Denis Island, 14 August 2007 (A. Mason, R. M. Mason).

Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii* (1, 1)
Adult in breeding plumage, Aride, 29 August 2005 (F. Hobro, T. Catry, G. Stoye, F. Salomon). Details of this first record for Seychelles have been published (Hobro & Catry 2006).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (9, 2)
One, probably *L. f. heuglini*, off Grande Soeur Island, 2 March 2007 (H. Mellie). First-winter *L. f. heuglini* or *L. f. barabensis*, dead, Mahé, 29 December 2008 (G. Gendron *et al.*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus barabensis* or **Caspian Gull** *L. cachinnans*
One, Denis Island, 13–15 January 2007 (M. Mason *et al.*). One, Picard, Aldabra, 29 January 2007 (G. Esparon *et al.*).

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus (Chroicocephalus) ridibundus* (17, 3)
Adult in breeding plumage, Bird Island, 25 March–2 April 2006 (B. Sampson *et al.*). First-winter, Alphonse, 13 and 15 December 2008 (P. A. Adam, A. Rose). One, Cousine, 20 January 2010 (K. Jolliffe *et al.*).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna (Gelocheidon) nilotica* (11, 1)
Adult, off Bird Island, 18 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (5, 1)
One, Cousine, 16 May 2010 (K. Jolliffe, D. Nell).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (5, 1)
Adult, Mahé, 11 October 2006 (R. Coomber, G. Jessy).

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (8, 1)
Two immatures, Desroches, 15–17 October 2010 (T. Jupiter, A. Commettant).

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* (10, 3)
Adult, Bird Island, 14–16 January 2006 (M. Norah *et al.*). One, Denis Island, 29 April 2006 (C. Hoareau). Adult, Cousine, 30 November and 4 December 2008 (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (36, 11)
Immature, Mahé, 6 January 2006 (T. Vel). Immature, Alphonse, 15–22 January 2009 (P. A.

Adam *et al.*). Adult, Desroches, 23 October–26 November 2009 (P. Summerton, D. Jupiter). First-winter, Mahé, 18 November 2009 (T. Vel, A. P. Skerrett). First-winter, Bird Island, 16–26 November 2009, with two on 19–20 November (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). At least one, North Island, 16 November–1 December 2009 (L. Vanherck *et al.*). First-winter, Cousine, 4 December 2009 (K. Jolliffe *et al.*). First-winter, Cousine, 25 December 2009–2 January 2010 (K. Jolliffe *et al.*). First-winter, Praslin, 12 January 2010 (K. de Jong, M. I. van Neiro). First-winter, Aride, 14 January 2010 (P. Knott *et al.*). One, Cousine, 21 January–20 February 2010 (K. Jolliffe *et al.*).

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* (15, 4)

One, Alphonse, 4 January 2008 (L. Macgregor). One, badly decomposed, North Island, 20 December 2007 (L. Vanherck). One, probably adult, Bird Island, 22 November 2009 (A. P. Skerrett). One, Mahé, 13 January–27 February 2010, with two on the last date (E. Palmer, A. P. Skerrett).

Cuckoo sp. *Cuculus* sp.

One, Cousine, 15 January 2009 (K. Jolliffe).

Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (4, 2)

Adult female, Aride, 10–29 January 2008 (B. McCallum *et al.*). One, Aride, 20 November 2008 (R. Tiatousse *et al.*).

Nightjar sp. *Caprimulgus* sp.

One, Bird Island, 16–18 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (5, 1)

One, Alphonse, 1 December 2006 (M. Betts).

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* (1, 1)

One, *C. p. gracilis*, Picard, Aldabra, 20 December 2006 (P. Pistorius, G. Esparon; Fig. 4).

Common Swift *Apus apus* (19, 5)

One, D'Arros 9–12 November 2006 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). One, *A. a. pekinensis*, Alphonse, 26 April 2007 (M. Betts). One, Alphonse, 1–15 December 2008 (P. A. Adam *et al.*). Up to ten, Desroches, 18–25 October 2009 (P. Summerton,



Figure 4. African Palm Swift / Martinet des palmes *Cypsiurus parvus*, Picard, Aldabra, 20 December 2006 (Pierre Pistorius)

L. Thompson). One, Desroches, 5 February 2010 (P. Summerton).

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* (12, 2)

One, Bird Island, 11–15 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*). One, Denis Island, 26–27 December 2009 (M. Sur).

Little Swift *Apus affinis* (5, 1)

One, North Island, 24 January 2009 (M. Mounac, A. Saunders).

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (1, 1)

One, Bird Island, 20–21 November 2009 (V. E. Phillips *et al.*). Details of this first record for Seychelles appear elsewhere in this issue (Phillips & Phillips 2011).

Kingfisher sp. *Alcedo* sp.

One, probably Common Kingfisher *A. atthis*, Alphonse, 2–3 December 2006 (M. Betts *et al.*).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* (17 + 3 invasions, 0 + 2 invasions)

This species appeared in significant numbers in 2008/09 and 2009/10. SBRC accepted all records of this species from reliable observers during these seasons without supporting descriptions or photographs.

In 2008/09, birds appeared on the following islands in chronological order: (1) Praslin: 17 November–28 April with max. 35, 26 November; (2) Denis: 18 November–early July with max. 500+, 22–23 November; (3) Cousine: 20 November–14

December with max. 40, 13 December; (4) Alphonse: 20 November–6 February with max. 43, 8 December; (5) Aride: 20 November–4 February with max. 18, 22 November; (6) Mahé: 20 November–14 December with max. 37, 9 December; (7) North: 20 November–2 December with max. 50, 1–2 December; (8) Bird: 21 November–4 May with max. 100, 21 November; (9) St. Joseph Atoll: 21 November–10 June with max. 120, 21 November; (10) Desroches: 22 November–end May with max. 10, 22 November; (11) La Digue: 3–5, 23 November–9 December; (12) D'Arros: 23 November–27 June with max. 100+, 24 November–18 December; (13) Cousin: three, 26 November and six, 10 December; (14) Curieuse: four each on 6 December and 6 January; (15) Conception: 12, 12 December; (16) Silhouette: 22 November–27 December with max. 70, 2 December, but no further sightings until three, 23 April; (17) Eden Island: two, 30 January and three, 10 February; (18) St. François: three, 15 January and one, 2 April; (19) Poivre: four, 12 March.

In 2009/10, birds appeared on the following islands in chronological order: (1) Bird: 20–25, 8 November–28 November; (2) Mahé: one, 18 November and two, 16 May; (3) North: six, 18 November; (4) Cousin: two, 19 November; (5) Conception: six, 23 November; (6) Aride: two, 16–20 November; (7) Alphonse: one, 28 November; (8) Denis: at least one, 2–12 December; (9) D'Arros: four, 15 December; (9) Silhouette: one, 15–16 December.

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* (1, 1)
Adult, between Settlement Beach, Picard Island and west Grand Terre, 15–31 October 2006 (P. Pistorius, S. Bostock, S. Onezia, C. Onezia, U. Samedi; Fig. 5).

Eurasian Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (3, 1)
Two, Picard, Aldabra, 14 November 2007 (P. Pistorius *et al.*).

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (43, 11)
Adult, Picard, Aldabra, 16–19 May 2007 (A. Hermans). One, D'Arros, 8 December 2008 (U. Engelhardt). One, Praslin, 16 November 2009 (G. Rocamora). Juvenile, Desroches, 17–25 November 2009 (P. Summerton, L. Thompson). Immature, Bird Island, 10–27 November 2009

(N. J. Phillips *et al.*). Two, Alphonse, 25–28 November 2009 (P. A. Adam, A. Rose). One, Denis Island, 1 December 2009 (M. Sur, C. Onezia). One, Frégate, 11–13 November 2009 (G. Canning, S. Hill). One, Desroches, 7–19 February 2010 (P. Summerton). Adult, Alphonse, 10–14 March 2010 (A. Nahaboo, J. Michel, P. A. Adam). One, Bird Island, 18 March 2010 (G. Rocamora).

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* (14 east of Aldabra group, 4)

Adult, Alphonse, 11 December 2006 (M. Betts). One, Alphonse, 17 September 2008 (P. A. Adam *et al.*). One, Alphonse, 22–23 November 2008 (P. A. Adam, M. Betts). Adult, Alphonse, 10–22 November 2009 (P. A. Adam).

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (4, 1)

One, Bird Island, 16–23 November 2009, with two present on the last date (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* (1, 1)

One, probably *R. p. chinensis*, Anse Etoile, Mahé, 9 December 2008 (A. P. Skerrett). Details of this first record for Seychelles have been published (Skerrett 2009).

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (22, 7)

Two, Bird Island, 27 October 2007 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). One, Alphonse, 15–17 February 2007



Figure 5. Adult Madagascar Bee-eater / Guêpier de Madagascar *Merops superciliosus* between Settlement Beach, Picard Island and west Grand Terre, 15–31 October 2006 (Sam Bostock)

(M. Betts, S. Barclay). One, Alphonse, 23–26 December 2008 (A. Rose, P. A. Adam). One, Alphonse, 20–26 October 2009 (A. Rose, P. A. Adam). One, Bird Island, 9–11 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips). Adult, Alphonse, 9 November 2010 (A. Nahaboo *et al.*). Two, Cousine, 10 November 2010 (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe).

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* (1, 1)

One, *H. s. smithii*, Research Station, Picard, Aldabra, 8 February 2008 (C. Onezia, B. Rose; Fig. 6).



Figure 6. Wire-tailed Swallow / Hirondelle à longs brins *Hirundo smithii*, Picard, Aldabra, 8 February 2008 (Catherina Onezia)

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

(9, 3)
One, Alphonse, 9–14 April 2007 (M. Betts, A. P. Skerrett). Three, Alphonse, 16–18 May 2008 (A. Rose *et al.*). One, Alphonse, 4–5 October 2009 (A. Rose, P. A. Adam).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (31, 10)

One, probably male *M. f. beema*, Bird Island, 3 December 2005–March 2006 (M. Norah *et al.*). Adult male, possibly *M. f. beema*, Mahé, 27 January 2007 (M. Betts, A. P. Skerrett). One, Aride, 18–19 November 2007 (B. Sampson *et al.*). One, Picard, Aldabra, 19 December 2007 (P. Pistorius). One, Mahé, 27 April 2007 (V. Nichnadowicz, A. Rassool). One, Silhouette, 23–25 October 2007 (R. Gerlach, G. Gerlach). One, Alphonse, 1–5 January 2008 (L. Macgregor, P. A. Adam). Adult male, probably *M. f. beema*, Denis Island, 9 December 2008 (J. Nevill, A. M.

McDevitt). Immature, Aride, 19 November 2008 (R. Tiatousse *et al.*). First-winter, Aride, 20–25 November 2009 (R. Sutcliffe, M. Sur).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (9, 3)

One, D'Arros, around June 2006 (G. Ollmann). One, North Island, 2–3 November 2006 (U. Bristol). One, North Island, 18–19 November 2009 (G. Rocamora *et al.*).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (30, 7)

Two, Mahé, 6 December 2006 (M. Betts). One, Picard, Aldabra, 25 November 2007 (D. Monthy, C. Onezia). First-winter, Alphonse, 23 October–3 November 2007 (L. Macgregor *et al.*). Female or first-winter, D'Arros, 9 November 2007 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). Male, probably *M. a. alba*, D'Arros, 7 November 2009 (B. Narty). One, Desroches, 26 November 2009 (L. Thompson). One, Bird Island, 15–20 November 2009 (V. E. Phillips *et al.*).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (17, 1)

Up to four first-winters and one adult, Bird Island, 11–25 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

(11, 3)
One, probably first-year male, ship-assisted from 49 km east-northeast of La Digue, 29 October 2005, to off La Digue, 30 October 2005 (C. Anderson *et al.*). Female or first-winter, Alphonse, 18–22 November 2008 (M. Betts *et al.*). Female or immature, Bird Island, 11 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* (1, 1)

One, Denis Island, 27 December 2009 (M. Sur; Fig. 7). Accepted as either *S. t. variegatus* or *S. t. armenicus*.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (47, 6)

One, Picard, Aldabra, 11 February 2007 (G. Esparon). One, Aride, 18–20 December 2007 (B. McCallum *et al.*). Male, Alphonse, 12 February 2008 (P. A. Adam *et al.*). First-winter male, Alphonse, 12–16 January 2009 (P. A. Adam *et al.*). One, Picard, Aldabra, 14 January 2010 (S. Balderson). Male, Denis, 3 January 2010 (M. Sur).



Figure 7. Common Stonechat / Traquet pâtre *Saxicola torquatus*, Denis Island, 27 December 2009 (Michal Sur)

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (2, 1)
First-winter female, Bird Island, 13–20 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips *et al.*).

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (1, 1)
First-winter male, Bird Island, 16–19 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips, R. Bresson, P. Norah, R. Coon). First-winter male, *O. d. oreophila*, Cousine, 23–24 November 2009, was probably the same individual. (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe). Full details appear elsewhere in this issue (Phillips & Phillips 2011).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (7, 3)
Male, Bird Island, 27 October 2007 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). One, Mahé, 6–7 November 2007 (A. P. Skerrett *et al.*). One, La Digue, 17–18 December 2007 (S. Ansell, R. Thomson).

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (4, 1)
Adult female, Bird Island, 14 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (1, 1)
One, found exhausted and later died, Research Station, Picard, Aldabra, 24 April 2007 (U. Samedi, C. Onezia, G. Esparon; Fig. 8). The specimen is now at The Natural History Museum, Tring, UK (BMNH 2008.43.1).



Figure 8. Marsh Warbler / Rousserolle verderolle *Acrocephalus palustris*, Picard, Aldabra, 24 April 2007 (Guy Esparon)



Figure 9. Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, aboard the *Le Ponant*, between Aldabra and Alphonse, 27 March 2006 (Gérard Rocamora)

Fauvette des jardins *Sylvia borin*, à bord du *Le Ponant*, entre Aldabra et Alphonse, 27 mars 2006 (Gérard Rocamora)

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (3, 1)
One, Bird Island, 12 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (4, 1)
One, St. François Atoll, 4 March 2007 (E. Quilindo *et al.*).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (4, 2)
One, Bird Island, 17 November 2009 (V. E. Phillips, N. J. Phillips). One, Bird Island, 27 November 2009 (M.-F. Savy *et al.*).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* (1, 1)

One, aboard the *Le Ponant*, midway between Aldabra and Alphonse, 27 March 2006 (G. Rocamora *et al.*; Fig. 9).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (2, 1)

Male, Bird Island, 16 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (30, 1)

One, Picard, Aldabra, 30 October–3 November 2007 (C. Onezia, B. Marie).

Ficedula sp.

First-winter, Bird Island, 13 November and 17 November 2009 (V. E. Phillips, N. J. Phillips, R. Bresson). SBRC was unable to conclude whether this first record involved European Pied Flycatcher *F. hypoleuca*, Collared Flycatcher *F. albicollis* or Semi-collared Flycatcher *F. semitorquata*. Full details appear elsewhere in this issue (Phillips & Phillips 2011).

European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (18, 9)

First-year, Picard, Aldabra, 24 December 2006 (S. Bostock, G. Esparon). One, probably female, Cousine, 21 November 2007 (K. Jolliffe). Adult female or subadult male, dead, D'Arros, 26 September 2008 (W. Labrosse, B. Narty). Male and female or immature, Praslin, 11 October 2008 (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe). Female or first-year, St. François, 28 October 2008 (P. A. Adam, R. Bijoux). Female or immature, Bird Island, 11 November 2009 (N. J. Phillips, V. E. Phillips). Female or first-winter, Cousine, 24 December 2009 (K. Jolliffe, K. Phillips). One, Cousine, 15–30 October 2010 (K. Jolliffe, S.-M. Jolliffe). Adult male, Alphonse, 14 November 2010 (A. Nahaboo).

Acknowledgements

We pay tribute to the contribution of former committee member Bob Scott, a member of SBRC for ten years, who sadly passed away in March 2009. Bob will be remembered by all who knew him as a wonderful, intelligent, witty human being, and an excellent ornithologist. We also thank our consultants who contributed to records considered during the period covered by this paper, namely Dick Forsman (raptors), John Marchant (waders), Klaus Malling Olsen (gulls), Tony Palliser (seabirds) and Robert Prÿs-Jones (museums). Thanks are also due to Steven Blakemore and Stoke-on-Trent College, sponsors of the SBRC website <http://www.stokecoll.ac.uk/sbrc/>

References

- Eikenaar C. & Skerrett, A. 2006. First record of Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* for Seychelles. *Bull. ABC* 13: 88–90.
- Hobro, F. E. & Catry, T. 2006. Sooty Gull *Larus hemprichii*: the first record for Seychelles. *Bull. ABC* 13: 213–214.
- Phillips, J. & Phillips, V. 2011. First records for Seychelles of Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*, Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* and the genus *Ficedula*. *Bull. ABC* 18: 223–225.
- Skerrett, A. 2009. First records for Seychelles of Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* and Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*. *Bull. ABC* 16: 213–215.
- Skerrett, A. 1996. The first report of the Seychelles Bird Records Committee. *Bull. ABC* 3: 45–50.
- Skerrett, A. & Seychelles Bird Records Committee. 2001. The second report of the Seychelles Bird Records Committee. *Bull. ABC* 8: 23–29.
- Skerrett, A., Betts, M., Bullock, I., Fisher, D., Gerlach, R., Lucking, R., Phillips, J. & Scott, B. 2006. Third report of the Seychelles Bird Records Committee. *Bull. ABC* 13: 170–177.

Seychelles Bird Records Committee, PO Box 336, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles, or Hazeley Brook Keele Road, Keele, Staffs. ST5 5AL, UK. E-mail: pangaea@sky.com or sbrcsecretary@googlemail.com

Received 13 March 2011.